

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03391 231859Z

ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6150

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PLEASE REPEAT TO USNATO (IMMEDIATE), LONDON, PARIS AND
GENEVA (USSALTTWO)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MPOL NATO GW

SUBJECT: FRG GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON ENHANCED-RADIATION
WARHEAD (ERW)

REFS: (A) BONN 3324; (B) BONN 3388; (C) BONN 3289;
(D) BONN 3068

1. THE TEXT OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE ERW
WHICH IS REPORTED IN REFTEL (B) WAS GIVEN US LATE THIS
AFTERNOON BY PFEFFER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. PFEFFER,
WHO IS DEPUTY TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH,
HAD ASKED US TO RETURN TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF FRG THINKING ON THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC
DISCUSSION OF THE ERW ISSUE.

2. PFEFFER EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION TO ISSUE A
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TODAY HAD BEEN MADE BY THE
CHANCELLERY BECAUSE OF GROWING DOMESTIC
PRESSURES (SOME OF WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN REFTELS C AND
D). IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SOME ACTION WAS NECESSARY
TO HEAD OFF FURTHER INTERNAL DEBATE. PFEFFER ADDED
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THAT THE TEXT HAD BEEN PREPARED IN THE CHANCELLERY AND
HAD MOVED VERY QUICKLY THROUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE,
WITH LITTLE TIME FOR VETTING BY THE EXPERTS.

3. WE EXPRESSED SUPRISE AT THE TIMING OF THE STATEMENT
AND SOME CONCERN AT PARAGRAPH FIVE, WHICH AS PFEFFER HAD
NOTED WAS THE KEY ELEMENT OF THE STATEMENT. WE

ASKED WHETHER THAT PARAGRAPH WOULD NOT SEEM TO FORE-
CLOSE GERMAN ASSOCIATION WITH A DECISION IN FAVOR OF
THE THREE-STAGE SCENARIO WHICH WE WERE TABLING IN THE
NAC. THE STATEMENT SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT ANY DECISION
ON DEPLOYMENT SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL ARMS CONTROL
NEGOTIATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

4. PFEFFER REPLIED THAT THAT WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THE
STATEMENT AND THAT BY HIS READING OF IT THAT WOULD NOT
BE THE EFFECT.

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